

Notes on Enteridium Rozeanum—Mr. HAROLD WINGATE presented verbally the following description of the species:—

ENTERIDIUM ROZEANUM (Rki.), *Reticularia* (?) *Rozeana* Rki., Monogr. Sup., No. 179.—Aethalium of irregular shape, globose, ovoid or rounded-pyramidal, attached to the substratum by a wide base. Variable in size from 5 to 30 M. in diameter. Cortex and mass of spores ferruginous-brown; occasionally the cortex shining; sometimes membranaceous, pellucid. Interior structure very variable, the walls of the individual sporangia (which form a capillitium), membranaceous, pellucid, band-like, combined into an all-sided network attached uniformly to all sides of the cortex. The bands have triangular or polygonal expansions at the angles where they join each other. Spores globose, about two-thirds of the surface covered with a delicate, regular, fine-meshed network, the remainder with simple warts or elongated ridges. The warted portion has the outline of a wide spindle, the points of the spindle lying at the poles of the little sphere. Spores measure 7.5-9 mk. Found frequently in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, Pa.

The spaces in the capillitium, which represent the individual sporangia of the aethalium, have about the same dimensions in the same plant, but vary considerably, comparing one specimen with another. The extremes of variation may be expressed by the proportion 1 to 10. Sometimes the bands of the capillitium are very much lacerated longitudinally, and form a filamentous mass, where the characteristic structure of the genus is entirely lost after the dispersal of the spores. Capillitium yellowish under the microscope.

This plant has a rather interesting history. Mr. Ernest Roze, of Paris, studied the development of the myxomycetes quite a number of years ago by a method of culture which consisted of using earthenware dishes filled with sphagnum and water, into which he thrust dead branches of trees, pieces of rotting stumps, etc., which he brought from the woods in the neighborhood of Paris. He obtained by this method various plasmodia, studied them up to their fructification, and in the "Bulletin de la Société Botanique de France" (Tomes xix and xx), he gave the results of his experiments and his ideas upon the group.

In the spring of 1875 Mr. Roze obtained by culture a plasmodium, which, if his memory does not deceive him, was white. This produced aethalia which he was unable to identify, so he placed them aside for future study. Towards the end of the year, Dr. Rostafinski, who had in preparation his monograph, visited Paris, and examined among other collections there, that of Mr. Roze. Among numerous plants offered him for inspection, were the above mentioned aethalia which struck his attention immediately. He expressed his surprise to Mr. Roze, who told him to take the plants with him. This he did, but no description of this myxomycete appeared in the monograph, owing, probably, to the limited quantity of the material, and, as Mr. Roze suggested, the possibility of the plant being abnormal from the manner of its production.

In the supplement to the monograph, No. 179, however, Dr. Rostafinski described the plant as follows:—

“*Reticularia* (?) *Rozeana* Rki.—Aethalia of irregular shape, rounded, attached to the substratum by a wide base. Cortex, columella, capillitium and mass of spores uniformly ferruginous-brown. Cortex thin, membranaceous, irregularly perforated. Capillitium composed of thin threads with flat membranaceous expansions, joined into an all-sided net. Spores irregularly globose, very much warted, 8.3 mk. wide.

Note.—The aethalia run about 1½ cm. wide, a few about the size of a pea. Surface slightly shining, under the magnifying glass uneven, with point-like depressions. Examined under the microscope it is a delicate membrane, slightly colored, with numerous small, irregular perforations. Over the bottom of the aethalium are raised, very numerous, small, membranaceous, flattened, short, dark-brown columellas, running further into the net of the capillitium. The latter is composed of filaments with a not entirely smooth outline, running very often into triangular or quadrangular, membranaceous expansions, the last arms attached to the external cortex, sometimes running into the wall. The species is included temporarily in the genus *Reticularia*, as its individual history which might throw some light upon the organization of the curious aethalium, remains uninvestigated. In the meanwhile, we may work upon the hypothesis, which is highly probable, that *Reticularia Rozeana* is an aethalium composed of degenerate sporangia.

It differs from *R. lycoperdon* particularly in its cortex, which is not deposited in layers, but is a delicate membrane. Besides its weakly developed columellas and the spores with the entire surface uniformly warted, make it a good distinct species.”

In his correspondence with Mr. Roze the speaker asked him if he could furnish a specimen of this species, suspecting that he (the speaker) had the plant already in his herbarium. As Dr. Rostafinski had gotten all the material Mr. Roze had obtained, the question had to remain unsettled. By watching the locality from which the wood came that produced the original specimens, Mr. Roze was rewarded by finding in 1887 under natural conditions, an example of the plant, and was kind enough to send a portion of it. The plant as was suspected, proved to be one of our quite frequent species in the neighborhood of Philadelphia, probably found in North American collections as a variety of *Reticularia lycoperdon*, Bull.* The external appearance of the two plants is very similar, and the spores, unless very carefully examined, nearly alike in structure. In *R. lycoperdon* the warted portion of the spore has a circular outline, while in *E. Rozeanum* it has a spindle-shaped outline, the remainder of the spore in each case being covered with a fine-meshed, delicate network.

*The plant may also be found in the Schweinitz Collection in the Acad. Nat'l. Sc., Philada. under the name of *Licca fallax*, Pers.

In the meanwhile, Dr. Geo. A. Rex, in studying the variations of this myxomycete was the first to recognize the true genus of the plant, and was prepared to make a new species of it under the name of *Enteridium umbrinum*, Rex. As Dr. Rostafinski left the question of the genus to be decided as opportunity might determine, the plant can now find its place in our systematic botany under the name of *Enteridium Rozeanum*, with its description amended as above given.

JUNE 25.

Rev. H. C. McCook, D. D., Vice-President, in the chair.

Thirty-two persons present.

The following papers were presented for publication:—

“The Phylogeny of the Sweat Glands,” by Prof. John Ryder.

“Notes on the osteology and systematic position of *Dinictis Felina* Leidy,” by W. B. Scott.

Mr. Uselma C. Smith was elected a member of the Council for the unexpired term of the late Mr. Geo. Y. Shoemaker.

Messrs. A. Sydney Biddle and William Gerlach were elected members.

The following were ordered to be printed:—